

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-23, 26-46, 48, 50-64, and 66-106 are now pending in this application.

Claims 3, 6, 9, 15, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 33, 37, 40, 41, 50, 52, 57, 59, 63, 67, 77 are independent.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 26-29, 42-46, 50, 52, 57, 59, 63, 77, 91-100 have been amended; claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 24-25, 47, 49, and 65 have been canceled; and no new claims have been added by this amendment. No new matter is involved with any claim amendment.

Objection to the Specification

Withdrawal of the objection to the Specification is requested. The Specification has been amended in a manner that is believed to overcome the stated bases for objection. No new matter is involved with any amendment to the Specification.

Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection over Kovanagi '468

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-13 of Koyanagi (US 6,973,468) is requested. These claims have been canceled, thus rendering their rejection moot.

Non-Statutory Subject Matter Rejection under 35 USC §101

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 43-47 and 91-100 under 35 U.S.C. §100 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter is requested. Claim 47 has been canceled, thus rendering its rejection moot.

Further, claims 43-46 have been amended in a manner that is believed to overcome the stated bases for rejection, i.e., amended to recite a computer-readable medium. No new matter is involved with any amendment to these claims.

Anticipation Rejection By Koyanagi et al. '608

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7-8, 24-25, 49, and 65 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Koyanagi et al. (US 6,515,608) is requested.

Claims 1-2, 5, 8, 24-25, 49, and 65 have been canceled, thus rendering their rejection moot. Claims 4 and 7 have been amended to depend from allowable claims 3 and 6, respectively.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 3, 6, 26-29, 50-64, 77-80, and 102 are drawn to allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. In reliance upon the indication of allowability, these claims have all been amended in a manner that places them in condition for allowance.

Allowance of claims 3, 6, 26-29, 50-64, 77-80, and 102 is requested.

Applicant also notes with appreciation the indication that claims 9-23, 30-41, 48, 66-76, 81-90, 101, 103-105, and 106 are allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes that each of pending claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9-23, 26-46, 48, 50-64, and 66-106 in this pending application is in immediate condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that no fee is due with this response. However, for any fee that is due, please charge CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22040-00019-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 1, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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